

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 28, 2021

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House  
Office of the Vice President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Vice President Harris,

Americans across the country are closely watching the situation in Afghanistan. The rise of the Taliban has placed the lives of our allies as well as Americans still in the country in danger. For women and girls in Afghanistan, Taliban rule will most certainly be regressive. Education, work, freedom of movement, and other opportunities outside of the home are all rights that are in jeopardy under the current regime. As the highest-ranking woman in the United States government, we implore you to act swiftly to protect the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, and we stand ready to work with you towards this goal.

Prior to the Taliban taking control of Kabul in 1996, Afghan society was open towards women. According to the U.S. Department of State, in the 1990s, 40% of the doctors in Kabul and 50% of government workers were women. However, after the Taliban took over, women's rights were severely restricted. Women were not able to leave the house without a male relative, they were forced to quit their jobs, the women's university was closed, and there was a strict dress code. Failure to follow Taliban rule often resulted in brutal physical punishment.

In the past 20 years, there have been great advancements in rights and freedoms of Afghan women and girls. More girls are in school, more women are in government, and their life expectancy has increased as they have better access to healthcare. However, the recent takeover by the Taliban puts these advancements at risk. While the Taliban have said that they would honor women's rights within Islamic law, we remain deeply concerned. Should the past Taliban regime be any indicator of their future policies, women and girls are in grave danger.

As a government that supports the rights and dignity of all women and girls, we have a duty to assist those in Afghanistan. As the highest-ranking woman in the U.S. government, you have the loudest voice and greatest reach to enact real change. We in Congress stand ready to help and look forward to working with you and the Administration.

Sincerely,



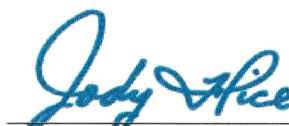
Carol D. Miller  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



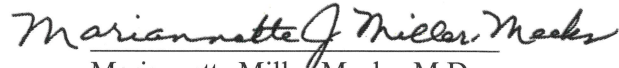
Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens  
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Michelle Steele  
Member of Congress



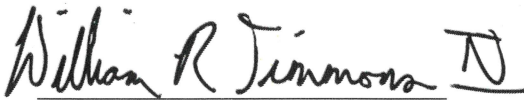
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress



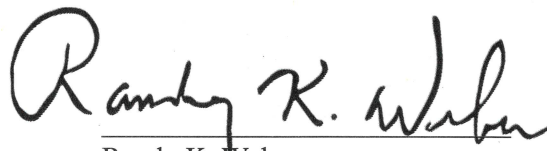
Beth Van Duyne  
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